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CUBA.

*Concerning relief of American seamen in Cuba and Porto Rico.*WASHINGTON, D. C., *March 6, 1900.*

SIR: I have the honor, by direction of the Secretary of State, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th ultimo wherein you refer to my letter of August 11, 1899, stating that the appropriation for the "Relief and protection of American seamen in foreign countries," is, in the opinion of this Department, available for the care of sick, disabled, or destitute seamen in Cuban ports, and inquire whether that provision of law is likewise available for American seamen at Ponce, Porto Rico.

In the opinion of this Department, the law is not applicable for the treatment of sick, disabled, or destitute American seamen in Porto Rico for the reason that it is, unlike Cuba in that respect, not a foreign country temporarily under military occupancy by the United States.

In a letter to the Hon. William B. Allison, Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, under date of February 19 last, the Department submitted an amendment to be incorporated in the pending diplomatic and consular appropriation bill providing for the relief and protection of American seamen in Hawaii, Cuba, Porto Rico, and the Philippine Islands. The Department thought it advisable to have legislation at the present session of Congress so as to meet all possible emergencies, notwithstanding the provisions of the joint resolution of Congress, No. 11, of May 24, 1899 (U. S. Stat., L., vol. 30, p. 220), appropriating the sum of \$50,000 for the relief of destitute citizens of the United States in the island of Cuba.

By reference to H. R. 7941, making appropriations for the diplomatic and consular service for the approaching fiscal year, it will be seen that the Senate, under the head of "Relief and Protection of American Seamen," has amended the measure in accordance with the Department's recommendation.

Respectfully,

THOS. W. CRIDLER,
Third Assistant Secretary.

Hon. SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

*Reports from Cienfuegos and Santa Cruz del Sur.*CIENFUEGOS, CUBA, *March 26, 1900.*

SIR: I have the honor to report that during the week ended March 24, 18 deaths have occurred in this city—4 from malaria, 2 from intestinal diseases, and 3 from tuberculosis. Six deaths occurred in the civil hospital. Death rate for the week, 23.46. No contagious diseases reported in this vicinity.

One thousand woolen blankets, used by the Spanish soldiers in this city, were ordered sold, and, not knowing whether these blankets had ever been infected or not, I had them all passed through the steam chamber, as a distribution of infected blankets would be a menace to the public health.

During the week 2 foreign vessels have been inspected at this port, and 5 cleared for foreign ports.

Santa Cruz del Sur.—Dr. Juan R. Xiques reports no deaths and no contagious diseases during the week. No foreign vessels entered this port.